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North Carolina
Collection

Golden Belt Manufacturing Company Ledger and Aerial Photograph

Title:	Golden Belt Manufacturing Company ledger and aerial photograph
Inclusive Dates:	1887-1891, c. 1940
Extent of Materials:	1 ledger and 1 oversize aerial photograph
Location:	NC Office Shelf 36 and Map Drawer 43
Date of Accession:	October 2015
Donor:	V. A. Holshouser (former Golden Belt employee)
Relationship of donor or materials to the DCL/NCR	
Processor:	Kristen Merryman
Description:	
Subject Headings:	Cotton Textile Industry--North Carolina--Durham
	American Tobacco Company
	Golden Belt Manufacturing Company
	Aerial photographs.
	Account books.
Abstract:	
Scope and Content:	The Golden Belt Manufacturing Company ledger details the accounting of the first years of the company, while it was still a part of the Bull Durham Tobacco factory. According to the first page of the ledger, it is "An itemized statement of the Resources and Liabilities of the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company organized this day by authority of letters issued and Charter granted by the Clerk of the Superior Court of Durham County, NC," dated August 16, 1887. The final page of the ledger is dated December 31, 1891. The aerial photograph shows the buildings that made up Golden Belt Manufacturing Company on East Main Street in the 1940s.
Related Materials:	Bobbin and Shuttle Company Ledger
	Edgemont Community Slides
	Julian Shakespeare Carr Papers, 1892-1923 (http://dcl.li/6795h)
	Julian Shakespeare Carr Papers, 1880-1982 (http://dcl.li/prvbw)
	Durham Hosiery Mill Advertisement Collection
Restrictions:	This collection is open for research.
	The account book was rescued from the trash by the donor when Golden Belt Manufacturing Company officially closed in 1996. The company started in 1887 in

<p>Biographical/Historical Note:</p>	<p>a section of the Bull Durham Tobacco Factory to produce the cloth bags that the processed tobacco was sold in. Originally Bull Durham had contracted with individuals to hand sew bags for the tobacco, but the sheer quantity required meant a new method needed to be developed to keep up with tobacco production and demand.</p> <p>Julian Carr established Durham's first textile mill, the Durham Cotton Manufacturing company, to produce cloth bags, which needed to be finished by hand. He then invested some research and development money with William H. Kerr to develop a machine that could produce bags. Kerr delivered and patented a machine in 1885 that cut and sewed the cloth, producing bags that needed only to be strung with drawstring. It reportedly "did the work of 42 women."</p> <p>Kerr was hired by Carr to supervise the new mechanized "Golden Belt Bag Factory" within the Bull building in 1887, which is when the account book starts. Soon, 48 machines were producing 10,000-15,000 bags per day, each, and the factory output increased to 2 million bags per month. By 1892, the Golden Belt Company had purchased the rights to manufacture larger bags from the Kerr Bag Manufacturing Co., and began producing multiple sizes, as well as bags for salt. After the sale of Blackwell's Durham Tobacco to Union Tobacco in December 1898, the Golden Belt Company moved to the buildings of the former Whitted and Lyon tobacco factories on Pettigrew Street, between McMannen (Mangum) and Pine (Roxboro) Streets, in February 1899. In March 1899, Union Tobacco was purchased by the American Tobacco Company.</p> <p>In 1901, the company constructed a new factory for the Golden Belt Manufacturing company, across from Julian Carr's Durham Hosiery Mill No. 1 at Angier and Main Streets. The factory was divided into a cotton mill and a bag mill. The company also constructed 50 mill houses to the east of the facility to house families. The company employed 700 people, predominantly female.</p> <p>Following the breakup of American Tobacco Company by the Sherman Anti-Trust Act in 1911, Golden Belt remained a subsidiary of the company. Production flourished with the demands of World War I and continued in the 1920s. The Great Depression lead to a resurgence in use of bagged tobacco, continuing Golden Belt's success. The short-lived return to popularity of bagged loose-leaf tobacco during the Depression ended during the early 1940s, and the need for manufactured bags diminished with it. Golden Belt shifted towards production of paper, packaging, and labeling during the 1940s, while continuing to produce textiles.</p> <p>In the 1960s, Golden Belt diversified again into plastics production. In 1965, the company installed injection plastic molding machinery. The American Tobacco Annual Report notes that Golden Belt "experienced a significant increase in operating profits on a strong sales gain." Plastics production was increased by 50% in 1967 to meet greater demand for plastic products. This growth necessitated a \$2-million, 34,000-square-foot addition to Golden Belt's Durham factory during 1966-68. This project, which included the installation of all new equipment, enabled the company to diversify its textile production, adding single and plied yarn for sale to knitters and weavers. This operations expansion included the 1968 addition to the company's main office building. That same year, Golden Belt experimented with production of molded plastic filters for cigarettes and adding synthetic orange flavoring to tobacco bags.</p> <p>The company continued to manufacture cigarette packaging into the 1990s. Business continued to decrease, however, and the loss of Phillip-Morris's business in 1992 halved revenue. In 1995, Brown and Williamson acquired American Tobacco. Shortly after, an antitrust judgment forced them to sell off several brands.</p> <p>In 1996 Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co., failed to attract a buyer for the buildings and donated the facility to the Durham Housing Authority. As of 2016, the Golden Belt complex is owned by Scientific Properties and used for a variety of purposes including apartments, artist studios, and offices.</p>
<p>Condition Notes:</p>	
<p>Organization of Collection:</p>	
<p>Container List</p>	
<p>Box 1</p>	<p>Account ledger, 1887-1891</p>
<p>Flat Folder</p>	<p>Aerial photograph, ca. 1940</p>



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